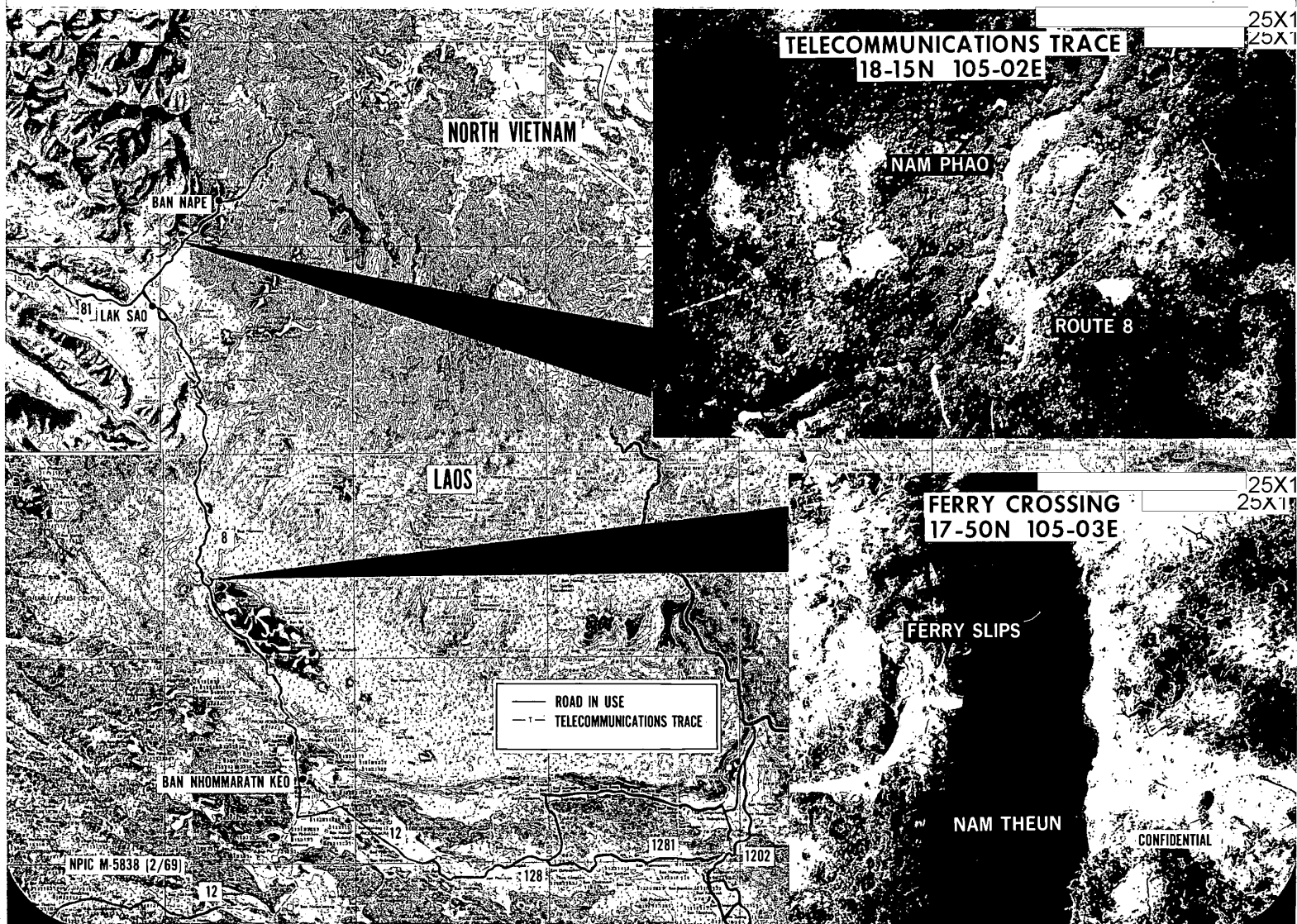


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ROAD AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACTIVITY ROUTE 8, LAOS



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ROAD AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACTIVITY
ROUTE 8, LAOS

1. SIGNIFICANCE:

THE REOPENING OF ROUTE 8 AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW TELECOMMUNICATION LINE PROVIDE THE NORTH VIETNAMESE WITH ANOTHER LOGISTICAL AND TELECOMMUNICATION ROUTE INTO THE LAOTIAN PANHANDLE.

2. LOCATION:

ROUTE 8 EXTENDS THROUGH BAN NAPE TO LAK SAO, THEN SOUTH TO JOIN WITH ROUTE 12, WHICH CONNECTS THE THAKHEK/MAHAXY AREA WITH MU GIA PASS.

3. BACKGROUND:

ROUTE 8, IN THE BAN NAPE AREA BETWEEN THE BORDER AND THE JUNCTION WITH ROUTE 81 AT LAK SAO, HAS BEEN OPENED FOR LIGHT VEHICLE TRAFFIC FOLLOWING THE END OF EACH SOUTHWEST MONSOON, HOWEVER, THE SOUTHERN SEGMENT BETWEEN LAK SAO AND BAN NHOMMARATH KEO, WAS ABANDONED IN 1964 AND HAS NOT BEEN REOPENED UNTIL NOW.

4. MISSION READOUT:

ROUTE 8 HAS BEEN REACTIVATED TO THE SOUTH FROM THE LAOS/NORTH VIETNAM BORDER TO JOIN ROUTE 12 NEAR BAN NHOMMARATH KEO. FROM THIS POINT, VEHICLES UTILIZE PORTIONS OF ROUTE 12 TOGETHER WITH ROUTES 128 AND 1281 TO JOIN THE HEAVILY USED INFILTRATION CORRIDOR SOUTH OF MU GIA PASS. ASSOCIATED ACTIVITY ALONG THE ROUTE INCLUDES THE CONSTRUCTION OF BY-PASSES AT TWO RIVER CROSSINGS

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AND NUMEROUS AW AND AA POSITIONS.

A NEWLY OBSERVED TELECOMMUNICATIONS TRACE EXTENDS SW FROM THE LIMITS OF INTERPRETABLE PHOTOGRAPHY AT 182035N 1050825E, 3 NM SW OF THE BORDER AND GENERALLY PARALLELS ROUTE 8 TO 181408N 1045943E, A DISTANCE OF 12 NM. AN ADDITIONAL 4 NM SEGMENT EXTENDS FROM 180720N 1050140E SOUTH TO 180345N 1050300E, A POINT 8.2 NM SOUTH OF LAK SAO.

INSET 1 DEPICTS A ROUTE 8 FERRY CROSSING OVER THE NAM THEUN AT 175046N 1050310E.

INSET 2 DEPICTS A SEGMENT OF THE NEWLY OBSERVED TELECOMMUNICATIONS WHERE IT CROSSES ROUTE 8 AT 181536N 1050212E.



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MAP REFERENCES: JOB'S NE 48-6, 7, 10, 11

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